

There was no objection.

WAKE UP, AMERICA

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Yesterday, health care executives indicated to the White House that they were going to slow the rate of growth over a period of 10 years, thereby saving \$2 trillion. Wake up, America. You have to look at the underlying numbers here.

What it means is that their share of revenue for our health care spending is going to rise to \$12.8 trillion by 2020. At 1.5 percent, slowing the rate of growth times 10 years—15 percent. You multiply that times your \$12.8 trillion, you get about \$2 trillion.

This is a hoax. It is a swindle. They're trying to tell the American people that these insurance companies that make money—not providing health care—are suddenly going to give the American people a break, when in fact the rate at which we're going to be paying is going to be 35 percent more than it is now.

Wake up, America. The only plan that we can have that can work is universal, single-payer, not-for-profit health care. Break the chains, the shackles that these insurance companies have on our political process.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PART OF AN ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE STRATEGY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am grateful that despite all the debate over our Nation's energy future, there's a general consensus that America should be the world's leader in the development of the next generation of cleaner, affordable, and renewable energy.

America has a grand tradition of innovation. We have been at the forefront of great technological advances throughout our short history because we have attracted and promoted scientists and entrepreneurs. We have dreamed big and succeeded.

As the debate over a comprehensive strategy for energy moves forward, we must ensure public and private support for strong renewable energy industry. The Congressional Renewable Energy Caucus, which I'm proud to be a member of, will continue to be a part of that support by raising awareness among our colleagues about the enormous potential of renewable energy.

With the threat of rising gas prices and utility costs, the time to promote renewable energy is now.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

TRIBUTE TO REGISTERED NURSES

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I rise today to pay tribute to the Nation's registered nurses and to congratulate them for the impossible job—but remarkable job—that they do in nurturing and serving and healing America's sick.

In Harris County, Texas, the county that I represent, the county presents 24,480 registered nurses. Nurses are patient advocates and act fearlessly to protect the lives of those under their care.

Nurses care for patients but participate in a wide variety of needed scientific research, and fight cultural and ethnic disparities and treat all patients as equal. Nurses are also teachers not only to future generations of nurses, but to the public, educating us on health and safety.

In a year where health care reform is a top priority, it is significant to acknowledge that 33 national nursing organizations have endorsed a consensus statement for the nursing community that complements five of President Obama's tenets.

The real issue is that they have come together to organize around good health care. I celebrate the fact that nurses are in Washington, D.C., speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves. It is important to respect the contributions that our nurses make.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY CAUCUS ON ALGAE

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. During the height of last summer, gas prices hit an all-time high. Thirty years ago, in the midst of another energy crisis, our country began to explore turning algae into fuel. The microscopic, single-celled plant has the potential to be a tremendous resource.

Algae grow very quickly, as anyone with a backyard garden or a watering tank in their pasture knows. It ingests carbon dioxide—releasing oxygen in the process—and is laden with oils which can be used to produce biodiesel.

My friends, we need to continue to explore any and all viable forms of research and development in this renewable energy.

On Thursday, Members of Congress will have the chance to see what the future may hold for our Nation's energy resources at the Congressional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Expo. There are still hurdles to overcome, but now is the time to begin working for a strong and diverse renewable energy portfolio.

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SOLAR AND THE RENEWABLE ENERGY EXPO

(Ms. GIFFORDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, many Members tonight are speaking on energy efficiency and renewable energy because they represent tremendous sources of barely tapped potential to help our Nation save money, increase energy independence and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

This week the House Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Caucus is drawing attention to these important opportunities by sponsoring the annual Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Expo. The event will run all day on Thursday in the Cannon Caucus room. It will feature over 50 companies and advocacy groups explaining the latest and greatest in energy.

Coming from southern Arizona, it's no surprise that my favorite type of renewable energy, of course, is the sun. And this is an exciting time for solar power. Technologies are rapidly improving, and costs are falling.

Solar power is already cost-competitive with peak power in many areas of the country. Many experts believe that it is on track to be competitive all day long within just a few years.

I urge my colleagues to stop by the expo on Thursday and learn more about these exciting contributions that energy efficiency and renewable energy will make to our future.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. President Obama has outlined a bold vision for a significant change in our Nation's energy policy. In keeping with the theme this evening of energy efficiency, I share with you a vision that the President has borne that will take and highlight energy efficiency.

Energy efficiency should be our fuel of choice, a fuel we need to drill and mine like we currently drill for oil and mine for coal. We must invest in demand-side energy solutions as well as supply-side.

Madam Speaker, we must diversify our energy portfolio and achieve efficient outcomes.

For example, this summer in New York State, almost 45 percent of a homeowner's utility bill will go for heating and cooling. For every degree the thermostat is set below 78 degrees, the customer will use 3 to 5 percent more electricity.

When government implements rate-based or taxpayer-funded demand-side management programs, the public policy is clear—the kilowatt saved is the cheapest, cleanest and the quickest kilowatt we can produce.